

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having converting means for performing protocol  
5 conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication protocol used in said network, and accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, said common carrier  
10 apparatus comprising:

payer-information storage means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together  
15 with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by  
20 comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information; and

payer processing means for, if said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, informing said accounting processing means of said second identification information and the payer specified by said payer information stored in said payer-information storage means,

30 wherein said accounting processing means performs an accounting processing on the payer informed by said payer processing means.

2. A common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having converting means for performing protocol  
5 conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication protocol used in said network, and accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus; said common carrier  
10 apparatus comprising:

payer-information storage means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together  
15 with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by  
20 comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information; and

inserting means for, if said information acquisition request or  
25 said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, inserting said second identification information

and a payer information indicative of a payer specified by said payer information stored in said payer-information storage means, into said information acquisition request or into said information transferred  
 30 from said information server apparatus,

wherein said accounting processing means refers to said inserted payer information and performs an accounting processing on said specified payer.

3. A common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, comprising:

5 converting means for performing protocol conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication protocol used in said network; and

accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus,

10 wherein said accounting processing means refers to a payer information which has been previously inserted in information transferred from said information server apparatus and is indicative of a payer of rate for calls, and performs an accounting processing on a specified payer.

4. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising accounting managing means for registering in said payer-information storage means an identification information and a payer information, with respect to information registered in said  
 5 information server apparatus.

5. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 2, further

comprising accounting managing means for registering in said  
 payer-information storage means an identification information and a  
 payer information, with respect to information registered in said  
 5 information server apparatus.

6. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
 said first and second identification information include any one of  
 Universal Resource Identifier (URI), Uniform Resource Locator (URL),  
 an Internet Protocol address, and an electronic-mail address.

7. A common carrier apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
 said first and second identification information include any one of  
 Universal Resource Identifier (URI), Uniform Resource Locator (URL),  
 an Internet Protocol address, and an electronic-mail address.

8. An accounting processing method used in a common carrier  
 apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless  
 communication network and an information server apparatus is linked  
 via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting  
 5 processing means for charging a communication fee required for  
 communications between said portable terminals and said information  
 server apparatus, comprising the steps of:

storing a first identification information associated with  
 information specified by an information provider who provides said  
 10 information server apparatus with said information, said first  
 identification information being stored together with a payer  
 information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said  
 information;

deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred  
 15 from said portable terminals or information transferred from said

information server apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

20       designating a payer together with said second identification information, if said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, wherein said payer has been specified by said payer information stored in said storing step; and

25       performing an accounting processing on said payer designated in said designating step.

9. An accounting processing method used in a common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting  
5       processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, comprising the steps of:

10       storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

15       deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said

information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

20 inserting said second identification information and a payer  
information indicative of a payer specified by said payer information  
stored in said storing step, into said information acquisition request or  
into said information transferred from said information server  
apparatus, if said information acquisition request or said information  
25 transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified  
payer; and

performing an accounting processing on said specified payer with  
reference to said inserted payer information.

10. An accounting processing method used in a common carrier  
apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless  
communication network and an information server apparatus is linked  
via a network, comprising the steps of:

5 performing protocol conversion between a communication protocol  
adopted in said wireless communication network and a communication  
protocol used in said network;

charging a communication fee required for communications  
between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus;  
10 and

performing an accounting processing on a specified payer with  
reference to a payer information which has been previously inserted in  
information transferred from said information server apparatus and is  
indicative of said payer who pays rate for calls.

11. An accounting processing method according to claim 8,  
further comprising a step of managing accounting so as to register an  
identification information and a payer information with respect to  
information registered in said information server apparatus.

12. An accounting processing method according to claim 9, further comprising a step of managing accounting so as to register an identification information and a payer information with respect to information registered in said information server apparatus.

13. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing an accounting processing in a common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, said computer program product including:

computer readable program code means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored together with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

computer readable program code means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

computer readable program code means for designating a payer together with said second identification information, if said information

acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus has the specified payer, wherein said payer has been specified by said payer information; and

computer readable program code means for performing an  
 30 accounting processing on said designated payer.

14. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for performing an accounting processing in a common carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a  
 5 wireless communication network and an information server apparatus is linked via a network, said common carrier apparatus having accounting processing means for charging a communication fee required for communications between said portable terminals and said information server apparatus, said computer program product  
 10 including:

computer readable program code means for storing a first identification information associated with information specified by an information provider who provides said information server apparatus with said information, said first identification information being stored  
 15 together with a payer information indicative of a payer of charges required to transfer said information;

computer readable program code means for deciding whether an information acquisition request transferred from said portable terminals or information transferred from said information server  
 20 apparatus has a specified payer, by comparing a second identification information contained in said information acquisition request or said information transferred from said information server apparatus, with said first identification information;

computer readable program code means for inserting said second



25 identification information and a payer information indicative of a payer  
 specified by said payer information, into said information acquisition  
 request or into said information transferred from said information  
 server apparatus, if said information acquisition request or said  
 information transferred from said information server apparatus has the  
 30 specified payer; and

computer readable program code means for performing an  
 accounting processing on said specified payer with reference to said  
 inserted payer information.

15. A computer program product comprising a computer usable  
 medium having computer readable program code means embodied in  
 said medium for performing an accounting processing in a common  
 carrier apparatus to which portable terminals are connected through a  
 5 wireless communication network and an information server apparatus  
 is linked via a network, said computer program product including:

computer readable program code means for performing protocol  
 conversion between a communication protocol adopted in said wireless  
 communication network and a communication protocol used in said  
 10 network;

computer readable program code means for charging a  
 communication fee required for communications between said portable  
 terminals and said information server apparatus; and

computer readable program code means for performing an  
 15 accounting processing on a specified payer with reference to a payer  
 information which has been previously inserted in information  
 transferred from said information server apparatus and is indicative of  
 said payer who pays rate for calls.